

August 19, 2021

Clint Lorimore Regional Council President Southern California Association of Governments 900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1700 Los Angeles, CA 90017

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RE: SUPPORT | SoCal Greenprint

Dear SCAG President Lorimore,

As a place-based community organization dedicated to realizing a more sustainable, equitable, and livable San Gabriel Valley, ActiveSGV supports the SoCal Greenprint to create a free, easy-to-use resource for community stakeholders like our organization.

California is in the midst of unprecedented wildfires, extreme drought conditions, worsening air quality, and other serious health and safety challenges. Faced with these crises it is imperative that we advance efforts to accelerate sustainable development and environmental best practices. SoCal Greenprint has the potential to help Southern California along this path. By compiling more than 100 sources of publicly-available data into a tool that helps stakeholders visualize how to build healthier communities, the project can help us make smarter, more cost-effective decisions at the local, regional, and state level.

Given the time-sensitive nature of the challenges facing us, ActiveSGV urges SCAG to keep the SoCal Greenprint on track for a Fall 2021 launch. Time is of the essence. The impacts of the climate crisis are already being felt more severely than forecasted across the state. Improving access to data and information is a simple step SCAG can take to help key stakeholders across southern California make better decisions in the months and years ahead. As a place-based organization focused on some of the most pollution-burdened communities in California, which deals with the outcomes of discriminatory land-use and transportation planning on a daily basis, ActiveSGV finds special value in the inclusion of an equity section that focuses on the unique challenges and needs of these communities. This is especially important as these very communities are also the most susceptible to the impacts of global warming and the least prepared to mitigate its effects at the local level.

We encourage SCAG to advance the SoCal Greenprint project and support cities in making sustainable, equitable development the new norm in southern California.

Thank you,

David Diaz, MPH Executive Director

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